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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/819,273	03/28/2001	Yasuji Hagiwara	9281-3969	4298

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EXAMINER

KOVALICK, VINCENT E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/819,273

Applicant(s)

HAGIWARA ET AL.

Examiner

Vincent E Kovalick

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's Patent Application, Serial No. 09/819,273, with a File Date of March 28, 2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda (USP 6,362,810) taken with Marcus et al. (USP 6,482,010).

Relative to claim 1, Matsuda **teaches** a tiltable joystick pointing device (col. 1, lines 66-67; col. 2, lines 1-67; col. 3, lines 1-57 and Fig. 1); Matsuda further **teaches** a character input apparatus comprising, an operation unit, a support for supporting the operation unit so as to be inclinable, a first detection unit for generating a different signal corresponding to an inclination direction of the operation unit, a second detection unit for generating a signal based on a motion when the operation unit is moved in a direction different from the inclination direction (col. 1,

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lines 66-67; col. 2, lines 1-3 and 28-41; col. 4, lines 29-41; col. 6, lines 1-10 and 48-55; col. 7, lines 48-54 and col. 8, lines 32-35 and Fig. 1).

Matsuda **does not teach** a control unit for selecting any data from among N data groups based on detected output from the first detection unit when the operation unit is inclined and for finalizing data selected based on detected output from the second detection unit when the operation unit is operated in the direction different from the inclination direction.

Marcus **et al. teaches** a control unit connected to a computer and provides information control signals to the computer to interact with the data groups stored in the processor memory (col. 1, lines 37-67 and col. 2, lines 1-22); Marcus et al. further **teaches** a control unit for selecting any data from among N data groups based on detected output from the first detection unit when the operation unit is inclined and for finalizing data selected based on detected output from the second detection unit when the operation unit is operated in the direction different from the inclination direction (col. 2, lines 45-59 and Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate with the device as taught by Matsuda the feature of providing the means to connect the joy stick with a processor in order to facilitate the first signal (joystick inclination position signal) and the second (joystick push down signal) being sent to the computer for selecting from among N data groups the data group corresponding to the position of inclination of the joystick.

Regarding claim 3, Matsuda **teaches** the character input apparatus wherein the control unit selects the data successively based on the output change of the first detection unit when the

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inclination direction of the operation unit is changed while the inclination of the operation unit that is inclined in a desired direction is being maintained (col. 2, lines 28-34). It being obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the user would manipulate the operating unit in the inclined position until said position displays the desired data unit and would then push down to transmit the date select signal.

Regarding claim 6, Matsuda **teaches** said character input apparatus wherein when the control unit selects the data and the selected data is displayed on a display unit, the control unit generates the display data so that not only the data selected based on the inclination direction of the operation unit but also one data positioned adjacent to the selected data is displayed simultaneously on the display unit. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that with the means to select a particular data in a fixed position for display, it would be a obvious expansion of said means to select the adjacent data for display if required by the system..

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. as applied to claim 1 in item 3 hereinabove, and further in view of Kandogan et al. (USP 6,184,867).

Regarding claim 2, Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. **does not teach** the character input apparatus wherein the support is provided with two rotational shafts that are rotated when the operation unit is inclined and two rotation detection means for detecting a rotation magnitude of each rotation shaft, the two rotation detection means constitute the first detection unit, and the

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detected output is obtained from the second detection unit when the operation unit is moved in a direction perpendicular to the rotational shafts.

Kandogan et al. **teaches** input for three dimensional navigation using two joysticks (col. 3, lines 47-67 and col. 4, lines 1-38). Kandogan et al. further **teaches** a character input apparatus wherein the support is provided with two rotational shafts that are rotated when the operation unit is inclined and two rotation detection means (conversion means) for detecting a rotation magnitude of each rotation shaft, the two rotation detection (conversion means) means constitute the first detection unit (col. 5, lines 27-45 and 52-55 and col. 8, lines 6-12); and the detected output is obtained from the second detection unit when the operation unit is moved in a direction perpendicular to the rotational shafts. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that with the means to generate an output signal from each of the rotational shafts, said signal indicative of the position of said shafts, the means to detect to the position of the second shaft being perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the shaft is part of said means.

It would have been further obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate in the device as taught by Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. the feature as taught by Kandogan et al. of incorporate two rotational shafts (joysticks) in the system, in that it expands the variety of devices that can be applied as system input devices which makes available the choice of input means that best fits a particular application.

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5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. as applied to claim 1 in item 3 hereinabove, and further in view of Tomoda et al. (USP 6,377,243).

Relative to claim 4, Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. **does not teach** said character input apparatus wherein N data groups include 26 alphabetical characters A, B, C, ..., Z.

Tomoda et al. **teaches** a data input device and the method for inputting data by operating a keyboard display on the screen using a pointing device (col. 1, lines 45-67; col. 2, lines 1-67; col. 3, lines 1-67 and col. 4, lines 1-6); Tomoda et al. further **teaches** said character input apparatus wherein N data groups include 26 alphabetical characters A, B, C, ..., Z (col. 5, lines 37-48 and Figs. 4A and 4B).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate in the device as taught by Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. the feature of including the software keyboard as a data unit as taught by Tomoda et al. because to the universal use of the keyboard as a data input medium.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. in view of Tomoda et al. as applied to claim 4 in item 5 hereinabove, and further in view of Saito et al. (USP 4,777,600).

Regarding claim 5, Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. in view of Tomoda et al. **does not teach** said character input apparatus wherein a conversion means for converting input data of alphabetical characters to kana characters.

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Saito et al. **teaches** a phonetic data-to-kanji converter (col. 2, lines 53-67 and col. 3, lines 1-43); Saito et al. further **teaches** a conversion means for converting input data of alphabetical characters to kana characters (col. 3, lines 61-67; col. 4, line 1 and Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate in the device as taught by Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. in view of Tomoda et al. the feature of incorporating conversion means for converting input of alphabetical character to kana characters in order to automate the process of converting text of the English language to a form of Japanese.

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. in view of Tomoda et al. as applied to claim 4 in item 5 hereinabove, and further in view of Okumura (USP 5,966,719).

Relative to claim 7, Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. in view of Tomoda et al. **does not teach** said character input apparatus wherein a second conversion means for converting the kana characters to kanji characters is provided.

Okumura **teaches** a method related to the conversion of kana syllabic characters to kanji characters (col. 2, lines 48-67; col. 3, lines 1-67 and col. 4, lines 1-29); Okumura further **teaches** a second conversion means for converting the kana characters to kanji characters (col. 6, lines 54-67).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate in the device as taught by Matsuda taken with Marcus et al. in view of Tomoda et al.

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the feature as taught by Okumura in order to automate the cumbersome task of convert Kana characters to kanji characters.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. .

U. S. Patent No.	6,381,027	Tanaka
U. S. Patent No.	6,323,840	Steinbrunner
U. S. Patent No.	6,331,849	VandenBoom
U. S. Patent No.	6,300,937	Rosenberg
U. S. Patent No.	6,285,356	Armstrong
U. S. Patent No.	6,175,358	Scott-Jackson et al.
U. S. Patent No.	6,002,388	Seffernick et al.
U. S. Patent No.	5,831,596	Marshall et al.
U. S. Patent No.	5,468,924	Naitou et al.

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Responses

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Vincent E. Kovalick** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-3020**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Bipin Shalwala**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4938**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquires

10. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent E. Kovalick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vincent E. Kovalick